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Report : Petition of C. French

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 27, 1882.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PLATT, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2089.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Caroline French, praying for a pension, having considered the same, make the following report:

Petitioner is widow of Col. William H. French, U. S. A., who died May 20, 1881, while on the retired list, of apoplexy. Her son, Frank B. French, who was a captain, died September 4, 1865, as she alleges, in consequence of exposure and sickness contracted in service and in the line of duty.

The petitioner asks for a pension of \$50 per month, because of the long and faithful service of her husband, the loss of her son, and her alleged necessitous circumstances. She has other children who support her, but whom she alleges have resources barely adequate for their own support.

Colonel French was a graduate of West Point; appointed second lieutenant of First Artillery July 1, 1837. He was promoted to be first lieutenant January 9, 1838, captain, September 22, 1848, major, Second Artillery, October 26, 1861, lieutenant-colonel, February 8, 1864, colonel, Fourth Artillery, July 2, 1877. He was made a brigadier-general of Volunteers October 24, 1861, major-general of Volunteers, February 1, 1863; mustered out of Volunteer service May 6, 1864; retired with the rank of colonel U. S. A., at his own request, being over sixty-two years of age July 1, 1880. He served in 1837 and 1838 in the Florida war; in the Mexican war in 1847; against the Indians in 1852. At the breaking out of the war he was stationed at Fort Duncan, Texas, which post he evacuated February 20, 1861, marching his command 480 miles to Fort Brown, where he took transports and arrived at Key West March 25, 1861, saving his battery by his prompt action. He was obliged to leave all his personal property behind at Fort Duncan, and the same alleged by the petitioner to be of the value of \$1,200. In the war of the rebellion he commanded a brigade in Sumner's division, Army of the Potomac, from December 1, 1861, to March, 1862; brigade, Second Corps, to September 12, 1862; third division, Second Corps, to June 14, 1863; in command at Harper's Ferry, from June 27 to 29, 1863, and of troops guarding passes, roads, &c., to July 7, 1863, and in command of Third Corps, Army of Potomac, to March 26, 1864. His active service covered a period of forty-three years. He was a faithful, efficient, and brave officer.

In view of the long, faithful, and distinguished services of General French, the necessitous condition of the widow, and the probability, shown by evidence in the case, that the predisposing cause of apoplexy, of which General French died, existed during his active service, the committee recommend the passage of the accompanying bill, giving the petitioner a pension of \$50 per month.